Disparity in Income of Rural and Urban Persons

4310. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY; Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a vast disparity in the average income of rural and urban persons ; and

(b) if so, the average income of rural and urban persons according to 1981 figures and the steps to remove this disparity Government likely to propose ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) According to the estimates compiled by Central Statetistical Organisation for the year 1970-71 the average per capita income for rural and urban areas was Rs. 499 and Rs. 1201 respectively. Corresponding information for 1981 or any subsequent year is not available.

The major thrust of planned growth in the country has been to reduce disparities in income. Almost all the points of the Twenty Point Programme including integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) are oriented towards the targets groups in rural areas. These programmes have been continued in the Seventh Five Year Plan with an accelerated pace with emphasis on agricultural growth, developing the potential of dry land agriculture and adoption of special measures to increase the productivity of small and marginal farmers.

Projects Lagging Behind

4311. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have indenitified any such project during the mid-term review of the Seventh Plan which are lagging behind schedule and have been victims of cost escalation especially surface Transport, Railways, Energy, Communications and Industry and Irrigation :

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the cost escalation involved in each case ; and

(c) the steps propose to be taken to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI)

(a) The mid-term appraisal of the Seventh Plan was undertaken of all sectors of development, and of the Plan as a whole; it did not cover cost/time escalation of any individual projects. The exercise undertaken in connection with the mid-term appraisal of the Seventh Plan was already tabled in the Parliament.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Upgradation of MIG Aircraft

4312. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Soviet Union has offered to upgrade MIG aircraft in order to make it match American F-1G :

(b) if so, the details of the offer made ; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon ?